The godown constructed under the Scheme shall be properly ventilated, shall have well fitted doors, windows and ventilators and shall be waterproof (for control of moisture from floor, walls and roof etc.) The godown structure shall have protection from rodents. The godown shall have protection from birds also.

By the end of March, 2007, 12,704 new rural godown projects and 1,664 projects for renovation of godowns have been sanctioned under the Scheme involving the creation of total storage capacity of 158.40 lakh MTs and 23.781akh MTs respectively.

Contract farming

2020. SHRI MAHENDRA MOHAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that Veeresh Committee constituted in the wake of suicide by farmers had recommended almost doing away with small farming that is considered as uneconomical;

(b) if so, whether Government would consider to bring radical changes in the existing Land Reforms Act and do consolidation of small holdings and promote contract farming in cooperative groups;and

(c) if so, whether any study has been undertaken in this regard and if not; the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTI LAL BHURIA): (a) to (c): The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Shortfall in foodgrains during 2006-07

2021. SHRI VARINDER SINGH BAJWA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether an up-to-date assessment has been made by Government regarding the shortfall in foodgrains, particularly wheat and rice in the country for 2007 both the Rabi and Kharif crops, due to inclement weather and floods in various parts of the country during 2006 and so far 2007; and

(b) the steps contemplated by Government to augment stocks and also to increase the production of wheat and rice in the country during the next three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTI LAL BHURIA): (a) As per the fourth advance estimates released on 19.07.2007, foodgrains production in the country during 2006-07 for both Kharif and Rabi seasons is estimated at 216.13 million tonnes which is the highest achievement so far. Rice production estimated at 92.76 million tonnes and wheat production estimated at 74.89 million tonnes during 2006-07 are also the second highest achievements.